Poaching racket in PANNA TIGER RESERVE

318. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has exposed a poaching racket in Panna Tiger Reserve;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps have been taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) the details of the security arrangements made by Government to preserve tigers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) The questions do not arise.

(d) The milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for protection of tigers and other wild animals are given in the STATEMENT [Refer to the Statement-III appended to the answer to USQ No. 315 PART (f)]

Mining permission in Elephant RESERVE area in Orissa

319. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has issued licence to Vedanta to mine bauxite reserves in Niyamgiri hills in Kalahandi district of Orissa;

(b) whether it is not a violation of Section 18 of the Indian Wildlife Act, as this area has been declared as Elephant Reserve in 2004 and there is also a great danger to the eco system once mining starts;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the tribal are vociferously opposing mining in this area; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons behind his Ministry giving permission for mining in a wildlife protected area and how State and Central Governments are planning to address the concerns of the tribals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) About 660.74 ha. of forest land for mining of bauxite ore in Niyamgiri Hills of Lanjigarh, Kalahandi district of Orissa has been approved for diversion subject to certain stipulations in favour of Orissa Mining Corporation Ltd. (OMCL) under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. However, the forest land will be handed over to the project proponent only after receipt of compliance of stipulations.